

"Building Our Sense of Community"

Shelton State Courier

Issue 83

New Series Vol. 6, Number 9

Shelton State Community College

June 27, 2002 - July 24, 2002

Inside The Courier

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Future Issues

This is the ninth *Courier* of the new year. We will publish nine more issues this year. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the *Courier* editorial office at 391-2406.

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What's a Fire College?

By Ken Horst

Following the terrorist events of Sept. 11, 2001 and the anthrax scares of October 2001, the fire service has received unprecedented attention.

This heightened awareness has focused on the dedication and training of these professionals. Despite this attention, the Alabama Fire College, located adjacent and to the rear of Shelton State campus, continues to operate in relative obscurity to the Tuscaloosa and Shelton State community.

While knowledge may not be widespread locally, firefighters across Alabama and the nation know where to receive quality training and certifications. That source of train-



Graduating fire fighters run the stairs at the training facility to show their instructors there are no hard feelings. Photo courtesy Laura Shill, TFD

ing and continuing education is the Alabama Fire College.

Although the Alabama Fire College was created in 1955 by the Alabama legislature, funding was not appropriated to build a training center until 1963. Construction began in 1965, with the original building and drill field being located next to what is now Snow Hinton Park. In 1981, the State Board of Education placed the Alabama State Fire College with Shelton State for administrative purposes. All course transcripts are issued through Shelton State. In March of 1998, the Alabama Fire College moved to its present location behind Shelton State.

Fire College cont'd
on pg. 3

Shelton looks forward to a year of partying

The 2002-03 academic year will be a busy one for Shelton supporters as the college marks its golden anniversary. In honor of the occasion, Shelton will host a year long Jubilee, aptly titled "Going For The Gold." The Jubilee will consist of various activities during each month, celebrating and acknowledging the history of the school.

Shelton State began as a technical college in 1952. A resolution of the Alabama State Board of Education combined it with the Tuscaloosa branch of Brewer State Junior College on January 1, 1979 to form what is now known as Shelton State Community College. Then in 1994, Shelton State consolidated with C. A. Fredd State Technical College, a historically black institution, creating the C. A. Fredd Campus of Shelton. The latest piece was added to Shelton's puzzle with the

completion of the Martin Campus in 1997.

"This is an eight month celebration, and will be the biggest event undertaken by the college," said Lucy Kubiszyn, the recently retired director of Public Relations. "Over 120 people are working on the Jubilee, with 10 committees meeting on a regular basis. We have a wide variety of special events for the community, students, alumni and faculty and staff. Shelton has a unique history, and focusing on it will really help crystallize the college. Shelton is focusing on becoming a top 25 school, and the Jubilee will help to do that. We also welcome students to participate in the production for the Jubilee," Kubiszyn said.

The festivities will kick off informally in September at the Martin Campus with the annual Foundation Barbecue Bash in recognition of faculty

and staff who have won awards.

The Jubilee Jam on Sept. 28 formally introduces the beginning of the celebration. There will be games and activities, entertainment and food vendors. Shelton is also expecting to have

a big name band to perform.

In October, the emphasis will be on quality management; with activities to include cooking events, guest appearances

Partying cont'd on pg. 3

Shelton holds tuition line

Shelton State Community College President Rick Rogers announced that even though college tuition across the state is rising, the tuition at Shelton would remain the same during the 2002-2003 school year.

"With the significant growth Shelton State is currently enjoying, we will not have to increase tuition this coming year," said Rogers. "The college will, however, adjust its student maintenance and technology fees this fall. This fee increase will place us at the same point on the fee structure

as the other two-year colleges in the state. These fees directly benefit our students as the money is used to purchase instructional equipment and state-of-the-art technology. Keeping up with technology is one of our greatest challenges," Rogers said.

Tuition at Shelton State remains \$60 a credit hour for in-state students. Student technology and maintenance fees, which are paid during registration, will increase from \$4 to \$8 per semester hour.

Gouge O'Life

By Ben Herdman

I was in Atlanta for the weekend to see one of my favorite hardcore bands, The Dillenger Escape Plan.

It was a quaint nightclub, filled with about 200 metalheads ready to dance the night away- that is, tear each other apart in an angry mosh pit.

Before the show even started we were all packed in like sardines, and I'm thinking, "My God, I don't even have the room to pull my hand out of my pocket, let alone withstand intensity of a mosh pit." Everyone was rushing forward for mere inches closer to the stage.

Then the band came to the stage, and the eager crowd made another desperate attempt to push forward. An obese biker, towering over the crowd, lost his footing and fell backwards. Twenty other people came tumbling down like dominoes.

Out of nowhere comes a dirty diaper, flying right at me. I was barely able to dodge it, and it struck the fellow next to me in the face. There was no baby in that place! Some underhanded dude was waiting

all night to unleash that one.

The band opened up the show with one of their most energetic songs and the whole place went mad. People were suffocating and getting trampled. I saw one guy go into a seizure.

Then the crowd surfing began. I could only pay attention to The Dillenger Escape Plan half of the time. The other half was spent looking over my shoulder. There's no telling when a crowd surfer is going to crash into the back of your head.

Then, all of the sudden, I realize that my feet aren't on the ground anymore. A massive beast of a man picked me up and tossed me over the heads of the crowd. People were trying to pull my clothes off as I suffered involuntarily. The next thing I know I'm dropped on the stage!

The singer pulls me up and holds the microphone to my mouth. I knew all the lyrics

The Dillenger Escape Plan

by heart. I sang a couple of lines until a security guard pulled me back off stage, but instead of returning to my feet, I'm crowd surfing again.

This time they passed me all the way through the hall and directly out of the door! The stubborn doorman wouldn't let me back in. He said the bar was too full and had already reached its maximum capacity, but I really didn't care that much. Nobody else in that place could say that they sang with The Dillenger Escape Plan.



Illustration by Abbot

"Keep Looking Up!"

By Dr. Lee Albritton

Have you noticed the bright object in the western sky shortly after sunset? It is Earth's sister planet, Venus, the second rock from the sun.

Because Venus is so bright, the ancients named this planet for their goddess of love and beauty. Since Venus and Earth are almost the same size and Earth is also named for a goddess, Mother Earth, we are referred to as sister planets.



Today, we know why our sister planet is so bright; Venus is completely covered with clouds. Since clouds are white and white reflects light, Venus reflects approximately 75 percent of the sunlight that strikes the planet.

Since planets revolve around the sun, it will be fun over the coming months to watch Venus move on the ecliptic further and further from the

The Beautiful Sister

sun. Venus is in the constellation Cancer at present and during July and August will move through Leo and into Virgo.

Since Venus is the second planet from the sun and Earth is the third, we will always view Venus in the direction of the sun. That is why Venus is sometimes referred to as the "evening star" or "morning star," depending on which side of the sun the planet is from our view.

Keep looking up, and check out the lovely goddess throughout the summer.

Off the Shelf...

New works available in the Brooks-Cork Library

By Glen Johnson

On the Best-Seller Shelf...

In *Daddy's Little Girl*, her latest suspense story, Mary Higgins Clark brings us the tale of Ellie Cavanaugh. Although only seven at the time her older sister was murdered, it's Ellie who leads her parents to the body, and it's Ellie who gives testimony that convicts one of the prime suspects. Twenty-two years later and still protesting his innocence, the felon gets paroled and an older and wiser Ellie, now an investigative reporter, decides to write a book, proving his guilt. However, her investigations raise more questions than they answer.

Martha Inc. is Christopher Byron's much awaited biography of Martha Stewart. Not only does it give a close look at the phenomena of her business empire, but Byron's book also follows her personal life from its modest beginnings in Nutley, N.J. to the flush times and all the twists and turns in between.

Michael Connelly's new book *City of Bones* starts off innocently enough when Det. Harry Bosch gets a call on New Year's Day about a dog who's found a bone. It turns out the dog's owner is pretty sure the bone once belonged to a human. Further along: a suspect bolts, a cop is shot, and through it all Bosch is dating a rookie cop.

And, last but not least, Stephen King's *Everything's Eventual* is 14 of the old master's latest short stories, including "Riding the Bullet," King's original e-book which attracted over half a million online readers.

American Literature: *The Sun also Rises*, by Ernest Hemingway; *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*, by Langston Hughes; *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston.

History: *America Afire*, by Bernard Weisberger; *Lee and Grant*, by Gene Smith; *Custer and the Little Bighorn*, by Jim Donovan; *Gettysburg, Day Three*, by Jeffery Wert; *Nowhere to Run*, by John M. Priest.

Shelton State Courier

Editor: Jenifer Wallace

Photographer: Sparrow Estes

Staff Writers: Members of the MCM 102—Introduction to Media Writing—class

Publisher: Dr. Jim Kenny

Business Manager: Jenifer Wallace

The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are

urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

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Fire College cont'd from pg. 1

The Alabama Fire College has a major impact on Alabama fire fighters, as it is the sole agency for certifying fire fighters in Alabama. Janet Levert, Alabama Fire College public education specialist said, "Every fire fighter in Alabama is certified with the Alabama Fire College." Additionally, due to its national accreditation, the Fire College trains many Department of Defense personnel. "We've had people from as far away as Washington and California attend classes here at the Fire College," Levert said.

Kevin Pate, chief of training for the Fire College, believes that the Fire College is on the cutting edge of training standards in the fire service. "We offered antiterrorism training several years prior to the Sept. 11 attack," Pate said. "Recently, the Fire College has adopted the Candidate Physical Agility Test as a

pre-requisite for entering the Fire College minimum standards certification program." The Department of Justice has validated this physical agility test.

During the past year, almost 1,600 fire fighters have attended certification courses on the Fire College campus. In addition, 1,060 individuals have attended specialized courses designed for industry, and another 1,247 students have attended anti-terrorism courses. Last year alone, 4,486 certifications were issued to students who attended and successfully completed course requirements.

So, what's going on in those buildings beyond Shelton State's baseball field? Specialized training designed to meet the ever-changing needs of the fire service.

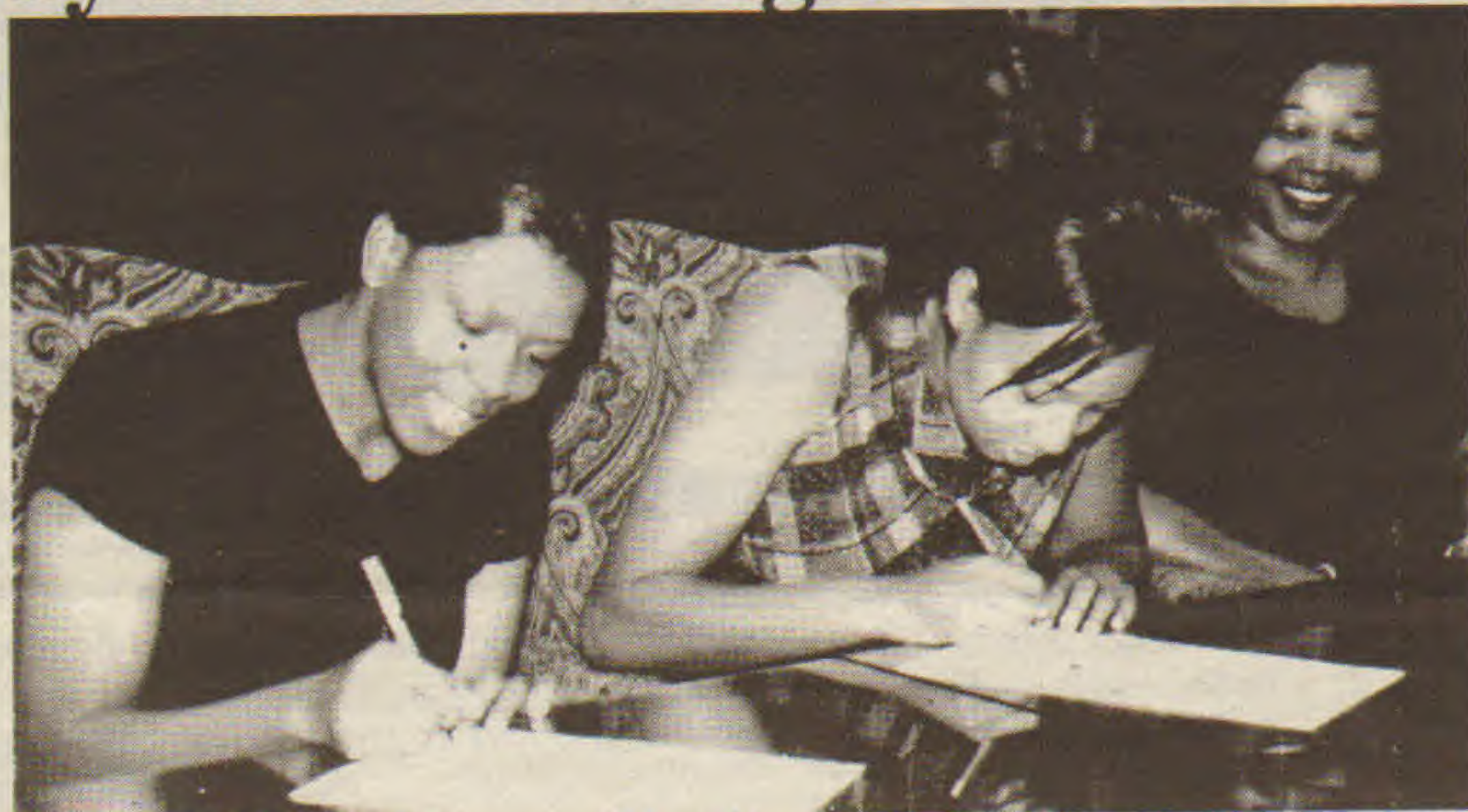
More information concerning the Alabama Fire College is available on their web site: <http://www.alabamafirecollege.cc.al.us>.

Ken Horst is a captain with the Tuscaloosa Fire Dep't and was an MCM-102 student when he wrote this article.

**Announcing the formation of
a Tuscaloosa writers club
Organizational meeting set for Aug. 5,
7:30 p.m. at the
Tuscaloosa County Library**

The group is being formed by Jim Kenny, publisher of the *Shelton State Courier* (391-2278) and Carol Collins-Miller (758-6142), journalism student

**All writers and would-be authors invited
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Lady Bucs heading to the next level

Two of the college's finest players will be taking their hoop skills to the four-year level next year. LaTonya Henry (L) is heading to Kennesaw State in Atlanta and LaTiffany Burton will be playing for Mississippi State. In a signing ceremony held recently in the President's Conference Room, Burton's mother, Jacqueline Moore, looked on with delight.

Photo by Sparrow Estes

Partying cont'd from pg. 1

from national champion gymnastic coaches Sara and David Patterson, and feature local talent.

When homecoming rolls around in November, Shelton students will have the opportunity to paint the town green, for the first time. In addition to annual homecoming events on campus, a reception will be held for all Shelton alumni, faculty, and staff. A special edition of the *Courier* will provide discount offers for students.

December will be a time for remembering those who came before us with a luncheon and Christmas tree lighting, in honor of Shelton's first students. For January the New Year will start off with a Journey of Excellence. The Shelton family opens its doors to the community with an open house to honor Shelton State leaders and visionaries.

In February, the focus will be on C.A. Fredd, as Shelton celebrates Black History Month by recognizing African American elected officials. One featured guest is expected to include Tuscaloosa native and NFL Hall

of Fame recipient John Stallworth, and a concert from renowned musician and former Shelton music instructor Everett McCorvey.

March is dedicated to arts and humanities. It features a month-long student and faculty art exhibit, community dance program, and stage and screen hall of fame and gala. Also, Mark Childress, author of *Crazy in Alabama*, will be present for a book signing.

In April, the Jubilee theme is "Our Future/Our Students. And while the yearlong Jubilee will come to an end, it is one celebration not soon to be forgotten, because of the dedication of a permanent marker.

When asked of his thoughts of the upcoming events, Dr. Jim Kenny, publisher of the *Courier*, expressed enthusiasm. "I'm looking forward to using the *Courier* to promote the events of the Jubilee, and possibly sponsoring a local band for the Jubilee Jam. It will not only be great for the college, but also a good story to cover year long."

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Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—

Student memorialized with foundation golf tournament



Family Support—Among the many supporters of Shelton and the Roberts Michael Echols Scholarship Fund were (L-R) Tommy Whitfield, Lee Echols, Wayne Echols, Jack Echols, Christy Echols and Mike Echols

By Sparrow Estes

The memory of former Shelton State Community College student Robert Echols will live on in years to come through a scholarship program established by his father, Mike Echols, and the staff at Shelton State.

Last month, the Robert Michael Echols Scholarship fund reached \$50,000

after a golf tournament, sponsored by Shelton State, brought in \$20,000 in proceeds. Echols first suggested the idea of the tournament to Shelton State in February and over 30 committee members helped out with organizing and planning it. "I was just amazed at the way they put it together," Echols said. "The staff down at Shelton State is tremendous."

The tournament was held at the

Country Club of Tuscaloosa on May 16, with a total of 26 teams participating. "We were very, very pleased with the number of participants and the amount of money that was raised," committee member Susan Mohun commented.

A reception with food and door prizes was held at the end of the day. Each golfer received a gift bag containing a shirt, golf balls and towels.

"It was a very humbling experience

to see so many people take time out of their schedule and take part in such a worthy cause," Echols said. "It was an honor to be part of it. Robert would have been proud of it."

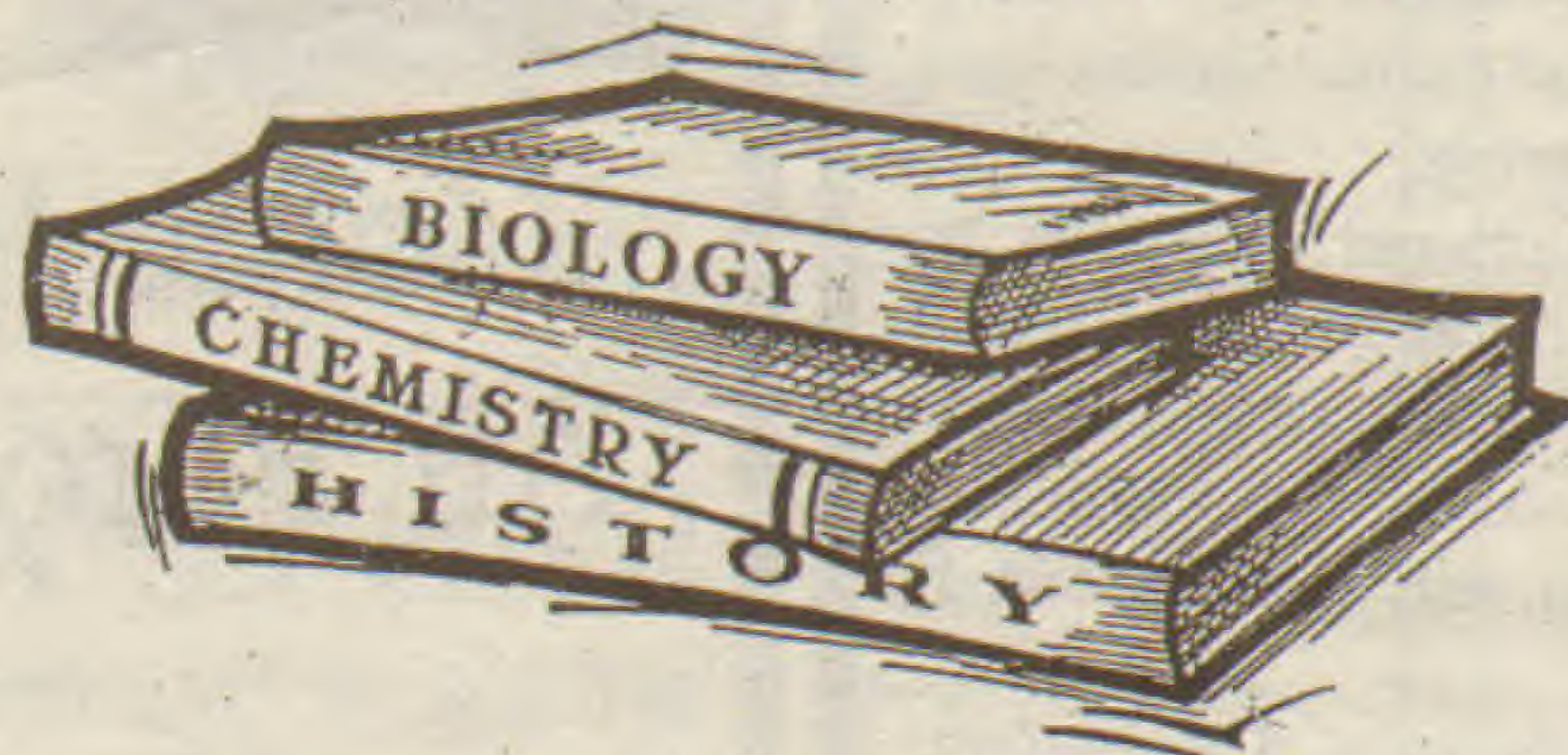
The Robert Michael Echols Scholarship will benefit four students in the fall. The selection of the recipients will be based on financial need and evaluation by Robert Echols's family and the staff at Shelton State.



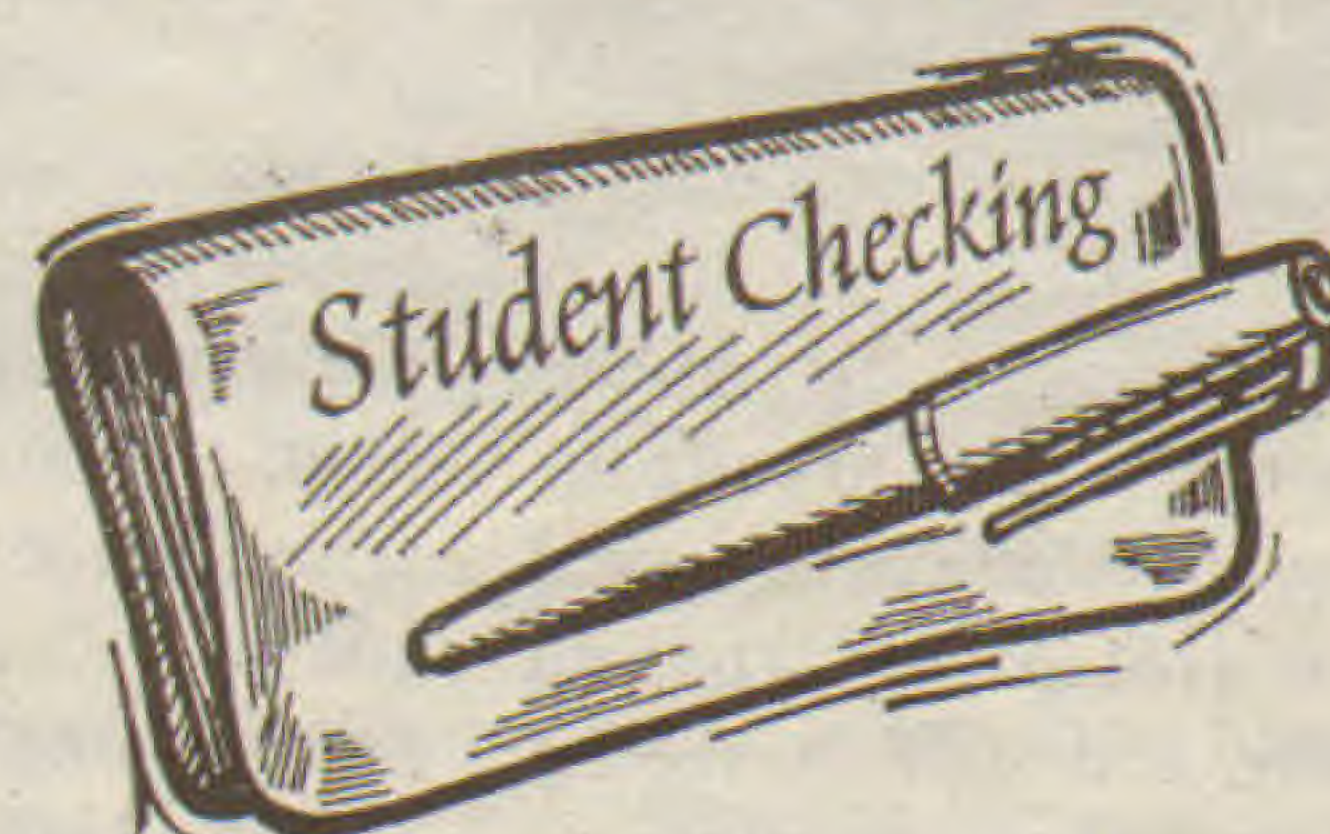
Shelton Family Support—Among the Shelton staff members on hand to support the Echols tournament were (L-R) Tommy Taylor, Steve Fair, Amy Brown, Karen Van Luvender, Martha Key, Annette Tommerdahl, Susan Looney, Tom Umphrey, Paul Looney, Holley Sexton, Amy Stacy, Ronald Range, Rick Rogers, Jan Dean, Peggy Hogue, Jan Rainer, Debbie Barton, Susan Mohun, Mary Gray and Andrea Parker. Not pictured is Janet Hendrix.

Photos courtesy of Martha Key

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New outfit determined to make cafeteria work for college

By Holly Holman

The new Campus Grill opened in mid June, and the new staff insists it's prepared to do what it takes to satisfy hungry students.

The New Campus Grill is a Christian-based food service out of Mississippi, owned by Roger Zimmerman. They cater for various churches in the area and for special occasions. Vice President Ben McLain sometimes visits campus, but Executive Chef Dominic Dicker is the man you see leading the crusade on what it takes to please our palettes.

However, the Campus Grill is the third food service to set up at Shelton. This poses a dilemma for the newcomers. How do they get students to eat here?

"We have a cafeteria. Let's use it," says Dicker. You'll see the charismatic chef smiling and walking the halls, searching for ideas to bring in more student business. He urges students to feel free to let him know what they would like to see on the menu. He's open to ideas from macaroni and cheese, the addition of television and music in the

sitting area, and specialty nights (Caribbean/Disco) which he hopes to implement into the Campus Grill scheme in the future.

However an improvement, these new features will not take away from the main attraction, the food. The pleasant staff serves freshly baked breads, gourmet chips, along with salads and their main courses and desserts.

The quality of the food seems good, with prices, ranging from 45 cents to \$5.75. "I was a student once. I understand that after searching for a parking space for fifteen minutes, you want to grab something to eat and you want it to taste good and be prepared quickly," acknowledges Dicker. He understands the student point-of-view and has made the grill available from 7-10 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for lunch, and 4-8 p.m. for dinner. Take home menus are available.

Having a college cafeteria requires a working relationship between the students and the food service, so it makes sense for everyone to stop by and say hello to Executive Chef Dominic Dicker—and grab something to eat on the way out.

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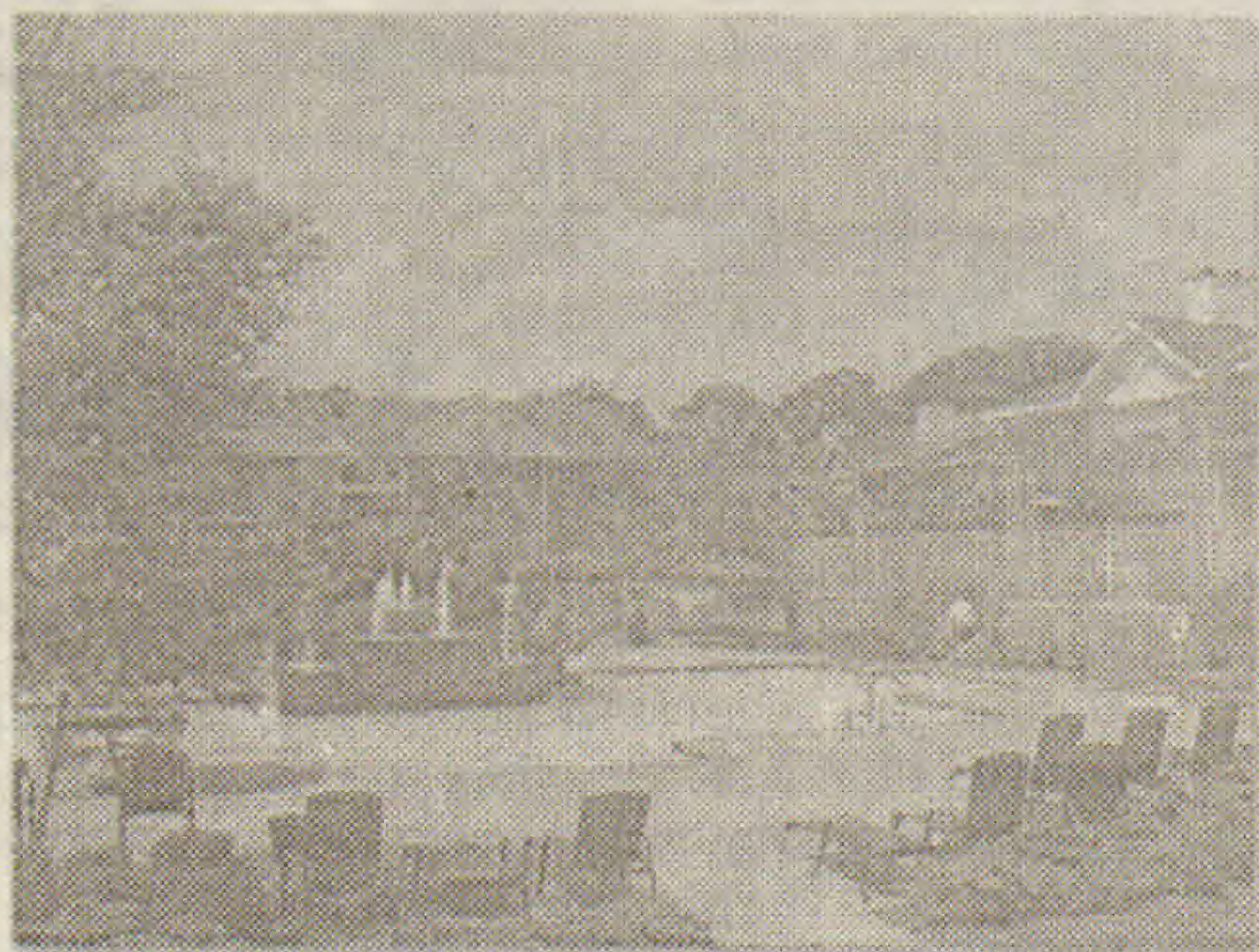
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The Bar Scene: The things you see and think behind the bar

Second of a Three-Part Series

By Danyelle Mewbourne

In the first part last issue, the writer talked about the benefits of working in a Tuscaloosa bar—the friends and perks, but she also began to see the dangers...

Months went by and I continued to see a decline in my ability and desire to do what was expected and required of me. For some reason, I did not quit my job. I think that can be attributed to not only being treated like a V.I.P, but also getting to witness some interesting drama, which alone can be addictive. It's only human nature. Look at the success the Jerry Springer show has had.

As everyone knows alcohol affects people in different ways. For example, one night after consuming quite a few drinks I watched as a couple went from being affectionate to argumentative. As "John" approached the bar he began a conversation with a young lady. Twenty minutes went by before he realized his

girlfriend, "Jane," not the one he was flirting with, was still waiting on him. One thing led to another and before I knew it, he was wearing Tommy Hilfiger with a splash of whiskey. Jane stormed out the bar giving gestures the whole way out and informing John he could find his own ride home. I'm not saying bartenders enjoy watching couples fight, but it definitely makes work more interesting than watching them shop for socks together.

Another example of drama in the workplace would have to be the time I was bartending Karaoke Night. Thursday nights at Jackie's are always a lot of fun, but for some reason we drew an interesting crowd around 1 a.m. After taking several shots, these two women, probably in their late 30s, asked two of my male friends to play pool with them. Keep in mind, it's now around 2:30 a.m. and we are hoping to get off work soon. Unfortunately, one of the women, a schoolteacher, decided she wanted to win by using distraction. As my friend got up to shoot the eightball in, she began disrobing. I turned around to find her tank top around her waist and her skirt right

there with it. Our bouncer had to remove her from the center of the pool table and ask her to leave.

That's why bartending is a fun job. I love standing behind the bar with all the power to make people's drinks, getting to know their life story, observe them and even cut them off if I feel the need to. At the same time, it's not all glamorous. Most bartenders aren't allowed to drink on the job like people think, and they must spend time putting up with people who think leaving 50 cents is a good tip. Also, there is the fact of dealing with numerous perverts. When you are sober and other people aren't, they test your patience much quicker.

So why is a bartending job seldom open and why would anyone want to tolerate rude behavior? Lindsey Niewadomski said, "What other job will pay my bills as quickly as bartending and still be fun?" Colin Hinson, a bouncer at the Venue said, "I get sick of dealing with some people, but at the same time, it's such an adrenaline rush to remove someone who's out of control from the bar."

Earl Hilyer, owner of Jackie's Lounge said, "I think these kids just re-

ally enjoy going out and having a good time knowing the real world will be coming their way soon. They need to get it out of their system."

I think this comment says it best because, in my opinion, our generation probably parties harder and dodges more responsibility than any other generation before us. Hilyer's statement also makes me sad because it reminds me of a friend of mine who chose to party hard and dodge responsibilities.

His name, I would rather not say, but last summer he faced the thought of the real world. He discovered he was going to be graduating from UA sooner than expected. This would mean having to be an adult and take care of himself for the first time. I guess he freaked out, because he began to purposely slow down his progress in school. He said he wanted to spend one last semester with his friends. This one fun semester of last opportunities ended up taking his life. One night after partying hard at the bars he was found dead in his bedroom.

"Bar Scene" concluded next issue

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Grote named associate dean

Linda Grote was recently named associate dean of administrative services for Shelton State Community College. In this position, she will be responsible for, among other things, the coordination of the college's ACT WorkKeys Systems initiative and work force development.

Grote received her B.A. degree from Samford University and her Master of Arts in Speech Communication from the University of Alabama. She has also completed graduate studies at the University of Alabama and at Louisiana State University. Last year she completed the ACT Job Profiler Certification program.

Before being named to the new position, Grote served as interim associate dean of academic services and as division chair for the social sciences, speech and fine art at Shelton State. She serves as co-chair for the social science, speech and fine arts at Shelton State. She serves as co-chair for the West Alabama Workforce Development Steering Committee Task force and is a member of the steering committee for the School-to-Career program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

A Kind Gesture in Memory of Ashley



John and Joyce Steele donated a cosmetology kit worth close to \$400 in honor of their late daughter Ashley Steele to Amanda Hopson.

Photo by Sparrow Estes

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